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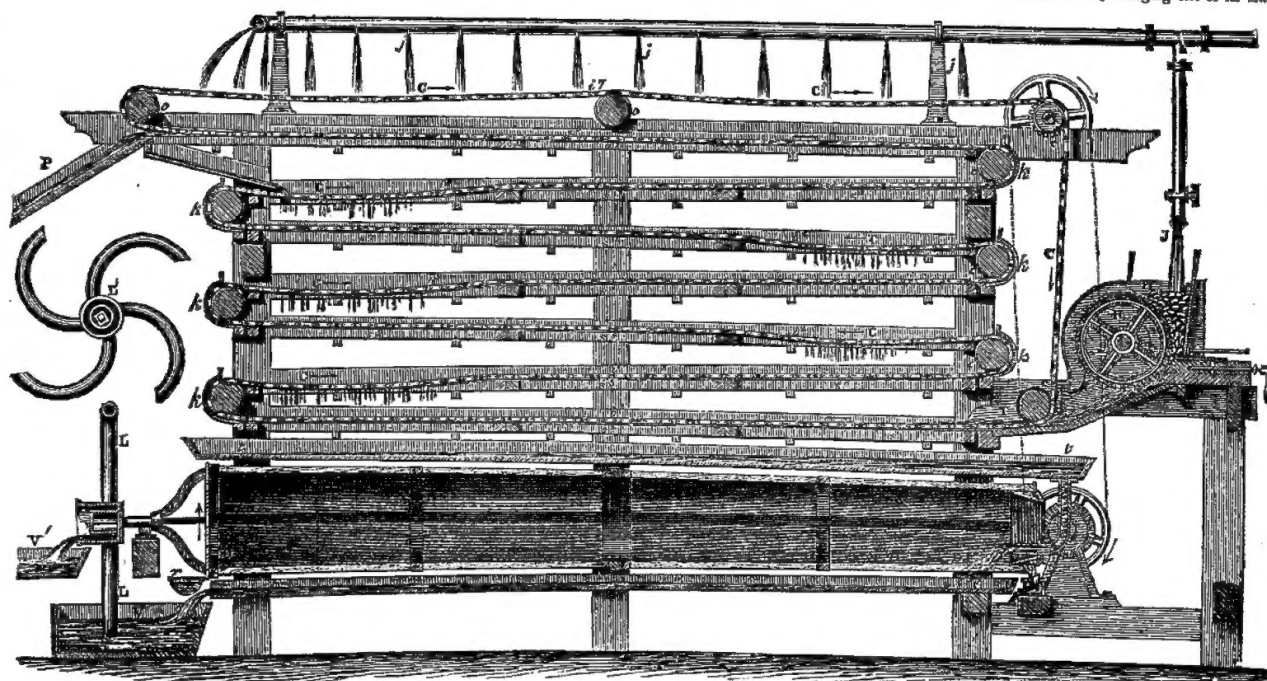
FRENCH POTATO STARCH MACHINE.

Owing to the failure of the potato crops in so many parts of our country during the past three years, this tuber has not been so extensively used for making starch; corn starch has supplanted it. But as the corn crop is said to be a failure in so many parts of our country this year, and as so many potatoes for years past, after having been gathered apparently sound, have commenced to rot, we think it no more than a wise precaution to use many of them in the manufacture of starch, when the crops are good, and where they cannot conveniently be carried to distant markets.

We here present a longitudinal vertical section of the machine which is employed in France for preparing potatoe starch, and although it is one made on a large scale for extensive manufacturing establishments a small one can equally well be constructed for any manufactory, according to its business. Our object principally is to direct attention to the subject, the more especially as there are many other tubers now wild and never used, of which good starch can be made by the same process as that for making potato starch.

The first process is to soak the potatoes in

water for about six hours, this softens the skin and assists in its removal; they are then passed through a hopper into a cylindrical cage, and washed by revolving the cage in a trough of water, a stream falling on the cage; all the earthy matter and much of the skin are thus removed. The potatoes are then fit to be placed in the rasping machine, here represented. It is a rasp cylinder having toothed knives, or saws in its circumference, and made like "Parkhurst's Gin." This rasp cylinder moves at a high velocity, in the hopper, H, which is so contrived that by hanging one of its sides,



is, upon an axis near the top, and keeping the lower part of the same side pressed in towards the rasp, it will yield, if a stone should get into the hopper. A stream of water, J, falls upon its surface, and assists the centrifugal action of the rasp in clearing its surface of the pulp, which passes down a trough, T, and thence to a series of wire gauze sieves, or strainers, mounted in fixed frames, one above the other. The pulp is first passed over the sieve, *s*, and then raised and passed over the other sieves, *s*, to *s*, by scrapers attached to an endless articulated chain, C, moving on rollers, c. There are two of these chains, one on each side of the sieves, only one is shown. K K is a box on the rollers, c. Jets of water constantly play on the top sieve frame,

and it trickles down through all the others, and by the time the pulp arrives at the discharging spout, P, it is thoroughly washed. The water charged with the fecula, is received in the trough, t, and then passed into the cylindrical sieve, D, of fine wire gauze, which is kept revolving on a shaft. Here the remaining portion of the fibrous part of the starch cell, which escaped separation by the sieve frames, are separated from the real starch. This fine pulp is collected in the small vat, *r*, while the starch water passes into a trough, *v*, and then into a vat, V, from which the centrifugal water wheel, L, (see separate figure) revolving on the axis of D, raises it into the trough, V, from which it runs into the depository vats. The wire gauze of the frame, *s*, *s*, &c., increases

in fineness from the top. At each stage are plates of galvanized iron curved so as to retain a portion of the water from the jets, *j*, *j*, and thus act as a momentary stop for the pulp in its passage across the sieve frames; this prevents the pulp from forming into knots.

The starch water is received into clean wooden depository vats from V, when it is deposited the starch at the bottom; the clean water is then run off and the starch put upon cloths to drain, these being contained on trays with perforated bottoms. These are placed on floors of well dried plaster of Paris, which in twenty-four hours absorbs the moisture, after which it is broken up in lumps, and placed on shelves in a drying house. The pieces are turned over occasionally, and when they begin

to crack the drying is completed at a hot stove, about 180°. When dry, it is battled through a fine sieve. [Red potatoes contain the most starch—about eighteen per cent.] Potatoes may be kept for a year or more at the temperature of freezing water, without losing starch. Small potatoes contain most starch. If germinating potatoes are used for making starch, cattle must not be fed on the residue, as is done with firm ripe potatoes, as the shoots of germinating potatoes contain solanine, a poisonous substance, which will paralyze their limbs. Potatoes for making starch should not be allowed to ferment, as this action leads to a great loss of starchy matter.

Starch is not soluble in cold water, but it is in hot.

Civil Superintendence at the Armories.

The administration has carried into effect the recent law of Congress, and removed the military superintendents of the armories at Springfield and Harper's Ferry. Erskine S. Allen, of Springfield, is appointed acting superintendent of the establishment there, and William Byington at Harper's Ferry. These gentlemen were the master armors under the military system. The old system of employing military superintendents was a source of continual disturbance between them and the workmen, who being independent mechanics, were not disposed to submit to a military discipline.—[Philadelphia Ledger.

Locomotive on a Table.

An ex-postmaster of Boston is in Germany, and sends home an account of a dinner to a railway congress, at which a locomotive appeared upon the table, to which was attached a train loaded with dishes of the choicest and most solid food. The succulent train advanced slowly, in imitation of the passenger trains upon all German roads. After having made the tour of the table without stopping; in order to give a view of the good things with which it was freighted, the train again started, making a station in front of each guest, and permitting him to fill his plate according to his appetite and fancy.

Light by Electricity.

M. Regnault, Director of the Rouen telegraph, in France, has produced light by electricity for four consecutive months, for the Napoleon Dock, accommodating 300 workmen. His report of the experiment is interesting. Two large sized batteries were used, the expense of each being per evening—wages of workmen 4-50f.; mercury 5f.; zinc 4-50; charcoal points 1-40; nitric acid 1-30; sulphuric acid 1-34—making 19-04 francs per battery: or \$7,52 per evening for both batteries, or about one mill per man. The work can be done without danger. The report remarks that electro-lighting can be cheaply established on ship board, and

is not like other lights liable to be extinguished in a storm.

So far as it goes, the report is satisfactory, but if we had the price of the apparatus, not the mere waste of metals, charcoal, and acid, and the expense of keeping it in order before us, we might form a more substantial idea of its economy, in comparison with gas. We do not believe that light by the burning of charcoal points by electricity can be produced as cheaply as from gas.

The next number of the "Scientific American" will contain several fine engravings of different mechanical subjects.

New Inventions.

Tempering and Flattening Saws.

William Clemson, of Boston, Mass., has made an important improvement under the above head. It consists of two iron plates placed horizontally one above the other, these plates being heated over a suitable fire-place. The tempering and flattening of the saw are effected simultaneously, by drawing the saw between the heated plates. As the saw passes between, it absorbs sufficient heat from the plates to effect the necessary tempering, while the flattening is done by the pressure of the upper plate. When a saw has been previously hardened it requires to receive a certain degree of heat before passing through the plates; if not sufficiently heated, it will break during the process. On the other hand, if too hot, it will spring back to its original unevenness after having been drawn through. To prevent this, the edges of the plates where the saw enters are beveled in such a manner, that before the saw arrives between them, every part of it becomes heated by radiation. The usual steps to secure a patent have been taken.

Instrument for Measuring the Speed of ships.

This is the invention of John De Graw, of New York city. It consists in placing a tube extending down below the surface of the water, upon the outside of the vessel. The lower end of the tube is furnished with a piston, beneath which is an aperture having a flaring mouth piece. The water rushes through the mouth piece and lifts the piston to a height proportionate to the speed of the ship. The piston is connected with an index located in some convenient position, whereby the apparent velocity of the vessel is at all times exhibited to the eye, in miles. An opening is made in the tube, both above and below the piston, through which the fluid enters; so that whether the density of the water at the base of the tube is increased or diminished, the pressure on the piston is equalized; the only operating force being that derived from the entrance of the water through the flaring mouth piece.—Measures have been taken to secure a patent.

Self-Setting Rat Trap.

L. A. Harper, of Russellville, Kentucky, has taken measures to secure a patent for the above invention. It consists in arranging a tilting decoy passage, and with it combining a drop door, which is operated by a spring trigger, in such a manner that as soon as the animal touches the bait, he is caught, and his weight made use of to set the trap for another customer. The passage into which the animal first enters, has the cellar floor for a bottom, so that the odoriferous senses of the rat are not likely to be offended when he approaches the bait.

New Butter Worker.

This consists in placing the butter within an endless sack or bag, which revolves between fluted rollers, in such a manner that the butter is constantly being operated upon by the rollers. One portion of the sack passes through water, whereby the butter is washed as often as desirable, during the operation. Ezekiel Gore, of Bennington, Vermont, is the inventor. Steps to secure a patent have been taken.

Daguerotypes Attached to Monuments.

George R. Willmot, of Meriden, Ct., has taken measures to secure a patent for an improved method of attaching daguerreotype plates to monuments. The daguerreotype is placed within an air-tight box, having an ornamented front, and the box is then secured in an aperture made for the purpose, in the side of the monument. A convenient slide, upon the exterior, serves as a protection from the weather and also to exclude light, and thus preserve the picture from injury.

To Correspondents.

We have no room to devote to you this week, as the index, which is valuable, takes up a great part of the paper. In the next number we shall attend to your wants.

IMPROVED ROTARY CULTIVATOR.

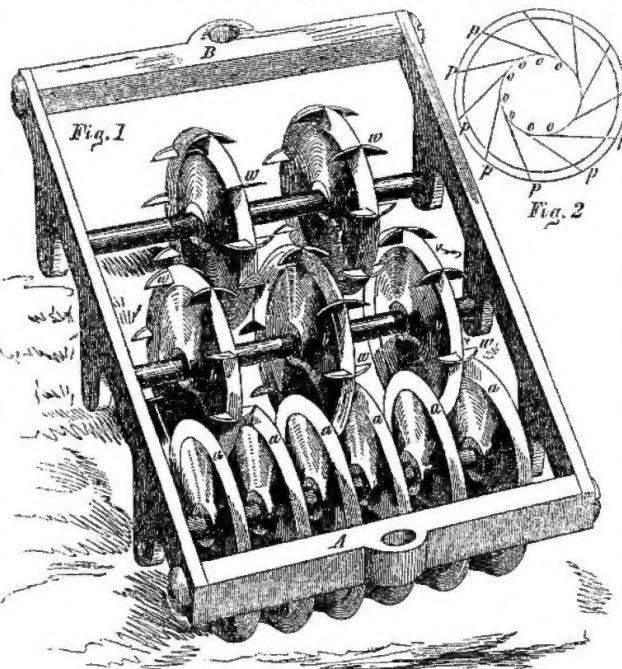
The annexed engravings represent an improved Rotary Cultivator, the invention of H. M. Johnson, of Carlisle, Pa., for which Letters Patent were granted June 27, 1842.

Fig. 1 represents the machine in perspective, and fig. 2 represents a section, the nature of which will be shown in the following description:—

It is only within the past three or four years that this class of agricultural implements has appeared to dispute the ground so long occu-

piated by the ordinary cultivator in general use; and in England where so much attention is bestowed upon this important branch of industry, we notice the very general introduction of the Rotary Cultivator. This improvement seems to present some advantages which are worthy of attention, and to render it more clear to the general reader we will describe its construction.

The frame, A B, supports three sets of colter or toothed wheels; the first set, a, a, are mere-



ly circular rotary colters, and are made of the usual plow steel, or other substantial metal, as thin as is consistent with due strength, they are beveled to an edge, and at the periphery are slightly thicker than in the interior part, to lessen friction. Their distance apart may vary to suit the soil intended to be cut through.

The second and third sets, b b and c c, are so placed as to come alternately in the center of the sections made by the first set, and consist of a colter precisely like those of the first set, a a; their edges are set with wings or knives, w w, projecting laterally at such an angle that, as the wheel revolves and advances, they descend edgewise with the least practical resistance, and come up flat-wise, bringing up the earth from the bottom of the cut.

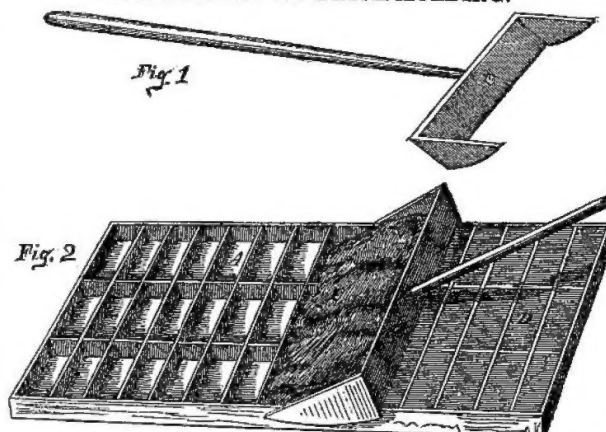
The inclination of these knives, and the effect of their position is shown in fig. 2, in which the lines, o p, show the direction of the plane

of the knives, and their length is equal to the space between the colter, a a, so as to cut up all the earth as the machine passes over it.

The advantage of the circular form of knife is, that all hard substances, such as loose stone, are pressed one side, and they are made adjustable, so that if one breaks it may be conveniently replaced. The patent provides for an increase of the colters or wheels, and also for the attachment of the cultivator to a carriage, whereby it may be raised and lowered at pleasure when formidable obstacles are presented, and each colter or wheel may have a separate axle, and play up and down under the pressure of a weight or spring, thus readily adjusting itself to uneven surfaces.

Our readers will find the claim published on page 542 of this volume, and for more information in regard to rights, etc., apply to the patentees as above.

IMPROVEMENT IN BRICK MOLDING.



The annexed engravings illustrate a new mode of molding bricks, for which a patent was granted on the 20th of June, 1854, to Nathaniel Johnson, of Nobleville, Hamilton Co., Ind.

The nature of this invention consists in providing a frame, seen in figure 2, which is divided off into compartments, A, each the size of the brick. This frame has neither top

nor bottom, it is laid down upon the level surface of the brick yard, and the compartments then dusted, preparatory to the reception of the clay. The mortar, which is first tempered so thin as to make what is usually termed stop, or water brick, is then brought in wheelbarrows to one end of the frame and thrown upon the same. The operator then takes the "lute,"—shown separately in fig. 1, and represented by B in fig. 2,—and pushes the mortar, O, along over the compartments, which fill up as fast as the lute progresses, leaving the compartments filled as shown at D. The lute, as it passes along, strikes off all the superabundant mortar, leaving the molds evenly and fairly filled. After the operation is completed the molds are not to be disturbed until the bricks become loose, which generally requires three or four hours, depending somewhat upon the state of the weather. As soon as the molded bricks are sufficiently loose, the molds are lifted carefully off, placed in another part of the yard, and the operation repeated as often as desirable.

The inventor claims that he can mold bricks in this manner, which, when burned, are equal if not superior in quality to any of the best machine-pressed bricks. He states that he has tested the plan thoroughly. It certainly is a cheap and rapid way of molding.

Any further information may be obtained by addressing the inventor as above.

A Hot Air Locomotive.

The St. Louis "Democrat" says: "We understand that the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Company have ordered a locomotive to be constructed, which shall be propelled by hot air on an entirely new principle. Should this experiment meet with success, the use of the tender will be entirely dispensed with, and coal sufficient to take the machine to Cincinnati can be carried in a single barrel. We cannot too highly commend this Company for the enterprise which induces them to make the experiment. Railroad Companies have heretofore very strangely rejected all improvements which have been brought up and proposed for the greater perfection of the locomotive, and thus the engine now in use is the very same, with a few inconsiderable exceptions, as that first made by Stephenson years and years ago. If the experiment of this influential and enterprising Company should meet with success, it will create a revolution in propulsion such as must astonish the world, and entitle the Ohio and Mississippi stockholders to the greatest honors."

[If the stockholders of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad will take our advice—and we think we understand this subject in all its bearings—they will abandon the "hot air" project, and thus wisely save their money for a better purpose. The magnificent failure of the "Ericsson" ought to be a warning to all on this subject. We are friendly to all experiments, but really we cannot encourage such stupendous nonsense as is here betrayed. Let the experiments be devoted to improved coal burning locomotives for generating steam, and let "hot air" alone, and the result will be much more satisfactory.]

Improved Rocking Chair.

By this invention, a complete rocking-chair is so formed that when not required for use it may be folded up and packed away in a trunk, or it may be extended to form a comfortable couch. Abel Russell, of Brooklyn, N. Y., is the inventor, and has taken the necessary steps to secure a patent.

Sub-Marine Telegraph.

The Halifax "Colonist" learns that the submarine cable forming part of the line of telegraph connecting Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with Prince Edward's Island, has been parted about two miles from the N. S. shore, and is doubtful whether it can be repaired the present season. It is also said that the idea of connecting Newfoundland with Prince Edward's Island by sub-marine cable has been abandoned, and the connection with this continent, if accomplished, will now be direct from Cape Race to Nova Scotia, at or near Cape North to join the line of the Nova Scotia company.

Scientific American.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 9, 1854.

The End of the Volume.

With this number closes the Ninth Volume of the "Scientific American," and its pages show abundant proof of the progress of invention during the past twelve months. No less than two hundred new inventions, requiring about seven hundred engravings, have been illustrated, besides a great variety of notices and collations from the published records of European Science and Art.

The engravings in our last three Volumes have been regarded as the finest specimens of wood cuts of machinery ever presented in any work,—this is independent of their value to our readers, which is unquestionably very great, as they include almost every variety of mechanical subjects—such as steam engines and boilers, water wheels, grist mills, lathes, agricultural implements, bridges, presses, and tools of almost every description, thus forming a valuable illustrated mechanical Encyclopedia.

In looking over its pages, the reader cannot fail to observe the great number of articles furnished by practical men, and when we speak in praise of the "Scientific American," we do not mean our own particular articles,—we are far more proud of the inventions and contributions which have sprung from the genius of the inventor and the workshop of the mechanic. The clicking of machinery and the mysterious operations of the chemical arts, are congenial to our taste; hence we naturally have an enthusiastic desire to extend this influence among our countrymen. The tendency is ennobling and keeps the mind above the more gross materialism of the age in which we live. This is one reason why we so often seek the influence of our readers in extending the circulation of the "Scientific American."

We could give the names of a great number whose latent genius was first stirred by its influence, and who, from working journeymen, have become manufacturers, and superintendents, and whose circumstances have been bettered a thousand-fold. If this ought not to encourage us to do our best, then we should be unfit to conduct any public enterprise.

To our intelligent corps of contributors we are under special obligations, which it would be ungrateful in us not to acknowledge.

We have received during the past year many congratulations for exposing errors in science—falsely so called—and schemers of a plausible character, calculated to mislead the public. This affords us pleasure, but in so doing we have only performed a simple duty. Unless we could feel a boundless freedom in criticizing and exposing such schemes, we should not do our duty to the public, and certainly we have no wish to serve the people in any other capacity as journalists. Our responsibilities increase with our circulation, and like a balance wheel in a machine, happily our experience grows with those responsibilities. More labor, care, and means will therefore be devoted to make our next volume still more worthy of the confidence and support of the people.

Mortality among Mechanical Publications.

It is no easy matter to sustain a paper devoted to mechanics and inventions; of this we have had abundant evidence. At present, we remember some fifteen periodicals of this class, which have come and gone; viz, the "State Mechanic," "Mechanic's Advocate," and "Mechanic's Journal," Albany, N. Y.; "New York Mechanic," "Farmer and Mechanic," "Scientific Mechanic," "American Artisan," and the "Engineer," New York City; "American Cabinet," "Crystal Palace," Boston; and "Inventors Journal," Baltimore—all weekly publications. Of monthlies there have been, the "Eureka," "Mirror of the Patent Office," "Appleton's Mechanics' Magazine," and the "People's Journal," New York; besides three or four "American Mechanics," published in as many different places.

At present the "Scientific American" is the

only weekly publication in this country devoted to mechanical and scientific subjects; and of the monthlies the "Old Franklin Journal," and the "Young Polytechnic" are the only representatives left. The "People's Journal" was issued at \$1 per annum, and undoubtedly attained the largest circulation of any of these monthlies; this was owing to its extremely low price and the industry of its publisher, who could not have realized any satisfactory reward for his time and trouble, and gave it up, like a wise man, for a better business. The "Eureka" and the "Mechanic's Magazine" lived through three volumes before they were suspended, and it is reasonable to suppose that if they had been well supported they would not have been discontinued. A great deal of money has been wasted upon unsuccessful journals of this character, and the task of sustaining them is one of extraordinary difficulty, and requires money, talent, energy, tact, industry, and, above all, fearless honesty in dealing with the subjects brought forward for discussion. It is much to be regretted that so many scientific cotemporaries have dropped as it were into a brief fatality from which there was no rescue.

We have made these statements for the purpose of showing our readers the great necessity of their being equally interested with us in sustaining a paper devoted to American Inventions, Science, Manufactures, and Art. It is humiliating for any paper to appeal to a certain class for its support simply because it pretends to an advocacy of its peculiar interests without possessing the merit necessary to recommend it as such. No paper deserves to be supported irrespective of its own worth, no matter what its object may be. It is the duty, however, of every mechanic, to acquaint himself with what is transpiring in the way of improvements and inventions in all parts of the world, and this he cannot do unless he reads a paper devoted to this branch of literature.—When there is a good periodical of this kind published in any country, the mechanic who does not subscribe for and read it, stands in his own light. With respect to his business, he is just like a merchant who attempts to buy and sell stock without looking into a newspaper to know the state of the markets, and what is doing in the commercial world.

The Circulation of the Scientific American, A Word to Advertisers.

In commencing a new volume of the "Scientific American," we shall print weekly about 80,000 copies. Subscribers have already come in so briskly that we have a demand for 20,000 copies on the first number. This number is larger in proportion than former years at the commencement of the volume, from the fact that the subscribers to the "People's Journal" (which has suspended publication) are to be supplied with the "Scientific American," which of itself will augment our circulation nearly 8000. Last year we received within two months from the date of the first number, 7000 subscribers, all requiring the back numbers from the commencement of the volume, and many, we regret to state, could not be supplied, as the editions of the first numbers were exhausted before we were scarcely aware of it ourselves. This year we have calculated upon 10,000 subscribers after the first number is published—3000 more than last year—and we think we have reckoned upon a sufficient number for the demand. Still we cannot but admit our selfishness in hoping that the demand may exceed the supply. Having stated what our circulation is at present, and what the prospects are for its increase, we would state to advertisers, that in future advertisements will be inserted at a charge of 25 cents per line, each insertion, instead of 18¢ cents, as heretofore, and the amount payable in advance.

The increase of our circulation by the supplying of the subscribers to the "People's Journal," is sufficient in itself to warrant the increase of rates, and whatever number of subscribers we receive on volume 10 over the number on volume 9, will be so much clear profit to the advertisers, as they can calculate for themselves, and we expect, and have provided for 3000 extra for their benefit, and still hope for more.

Gas—Heating Houses.

The New York "Tribune" of the 18th inst., in alluding to some inventions that are wanted, says of gas:

"There is a point in connection with the subject which deserves attention by American inventors. We need a burner which shall regulate the flow of gas at the jet, and effectually prevent the escape of any gas without perfect combustion. A heavy pressure is always put on by the gas companies, causing nearly one half of the whole quantity to pass off unconsumed. Their business is to sell gas, ours to purchase it, but not any more than we can use. Yet under the present arrangement of gas apparatus, we are entirely at the mercy of the companies who sell it."

American inventors have already directed attention to this point, and if the "Tribune" will examine page 380, this volume of "Scientific American," the editor will find an account of a burner to effect this object. Other burners have also been invented to meet the desideratum here urged.

With respect to heating houses, the "Tribune" says:

"English mechanics are now suggesting the feasibility of supplying heat to dwelling houses as well as gas, and by the same agency, that is, the circulation of steam or hot water through metal pipes. Doubts have been cast on the possibility of using water or steam to this extent. Condensation of the steam is predicted as certain to occur before it has traveled any distance from the boiler. Some trials, however, seem to dissipate these doubts. A very satisfactory illustration of its feasibility is seen at the Pennsylvania Insane Hospital, near Philadelphia, and the proprietor of an extensive steam saw-mill at Burlington, New Jersey, has successfully conducted the waste steam from his engine through metal pipes laid underground, a distance of some 900 feet, into his dwelling-house, where it performs all the important parts of washing, boiling, and diffusing a gentle and equable temperature in every room into which the pipes are introduced."

We suppose that there are few woolen or cotton factories in our country but what are heated with steam. It is no new thing this; either heating buildings with steam or hot water. Both plans have been practiced for forty years at least. Count Rumford was the first person who devoted his attention to this subject, and we have seen a building heated with steam, which was planned by him and has been in use ever since. All the ferry steamboats are heated with steam during winter, and all the exotic vicineries of our merchants in this city, are heated with hot water. We are glad, however, that the "Tribune" has directed attention to the subject at present, as the system, if it can be carried out for private dwellings, will be the means of effecting a great amount of good. But we also know that efforts have been made in this city for the past three winters to carry it out, and we are not indebted to mechanics on the other side of the water for such suggestions. To carry it out successfully, however, means must be provided for cooking as well as heating, in private dwellings.

The New Patent Bill—A Bad Provision in It.

We have received a copy of the new Patent Bill, with the amendments, and it gives us no small amount of pleasure to see that the committee of the Senate has proposed to strike out nearly every objection that we pointed out when commenting on it. There are still some very objectionable provisions remaining in it, which we commend to the serious attention of that committee. In section 28, it is provided that in equity, "It shall be competent for the court having jurisdiction of the cause to enquire into the damages sustained by the plaintiff, either by reference to a master, or by directing an issue to a jury." The words in italics should be struck out, they will create disturbances, if retained in the bill. Such a power puts the court in the place of the jury, and violates a well known principle of common law, which has been in force ever since the first patent law was made. We do not like it, and we are confident that the people will not

like it. Such issues should always be left to a jury and not to an appointee of the court.

Unclaimed Models.

Upon taking an inventory of the models remaining in our office, which have been accumulating for the last nine years, we find that the number remaining in our possession amounts to about fifteen hundred.

These models have been sent to us by inventors from all parts of the United States. Some of these are beautiful specimens of workmanship, and are displayed upon shelves to ornament our office, and others are of no value whatever, and are packed away in promiscuous disorder. To those who value their models sufficiently to pay the expense of transportation, we would advise them to order their return, and we would further suggest that in writing for them they should specify particularly what the model is, how it is constructed, (for we may have several under the same title) and how it shall be sent, and we will box it free of expense, and deliver to any Express or transportation line in the city. After this notice, parties who fail to order their models returned to them within three months, must not complain if they are not afterwards able to obtain them, for the quantities now on hand, together with those daily received, are getting to be too numerous and occupy too much space to be year after year stored at our expense, and the most worthless ones we shall from time to time destroy, unless they are sent for within three or four months, after written to that their inventions are not patentable.

To Our Cotemporaries.

We are under renewed obligations for the many kind words spoken of us during the past year, and especially are we grateful for the flattering manner in which they have received the prospectus of our coming volume. It shall be our object to retain the confidence of the press, and although we may sometimes come in collision when discussing prominent scientific subjects, yet it is always with us a mere difference of opinion, and nothing more, and in no instance can we recall an interruption of the entente cordiale with any of our brethren of the press. Every respectable newspaper in the country has our warmest wish for its success, and for the favors extended to us we hope always to feel deeply grateful.

Gratuitous Subscriptions.

An institution in the city of Philadelphia, numbering five hundred members, requests us, through its Secretary, to send them the "Scientific American" as a gratuity—this may appear very incredible but it is nevertheless true. Now as we do not do business in this way, and failing to perceive any reason in the request, we must respectfully decline it.

We are often "bored" by just such applications—perhaps amounting in all to one hundred each year. Our terms are two dollars per annum, in advance, and we hereby give notice to all public institutions, that we shall not send the paper unless the *quid pro quo* is duly forthcoming, perceiving no reason why we should supply five hundred readers for nothing and at the same time refuse to do the same for one.

\$570 IN PRIZES

The Publishers of the "Scientific American" offer the following Cash Prizes for the fourteen largest lists of subscribers sent in by the 1st of January, 1855.

\$100 will be given for the largest list,	
\$75 for the 2nd.	\$25 for the 5th.
65 for the 3rd.	30 for the 9th.
55 for the 4th.	25 for the 10th.
50 for the 5th.	20 for the 11th.
45 for the 6th.	15 for the 12th.
40 for the 7th.	10 for the 13th.
	and \$5 for the 14th.

The cash will be paid to the order of each successful competitor; and the name, residence and number of Subscribers sent by each will be published in the "Scientific American," in the first number that issues after the 1st of January, so as to avoid mistakes.

Subscriptions can be sent at any time and from any post town. A register will be kept of the number as received, duly credited to the person sending them.

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